

IS-US040596



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Mail Stop: Amendment  
Kazuya SUGIMURA et al. : Patent Art Unit: 3721  
Serial No. 10/518,244 : Examiner: SIPOS, JOHN  
Filed: December 16, 2004 :  
For: SEASONING PROCESSING SYSTEM :

**RESPONSE**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the December 30, 2005 Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks.

**REMARKS**

In the December 30, 2005 Office Action, claims 1-5 are rejected in view of prior art, while claims 6-8 are objected to as being in improper form. No other objections or rejections are made in the Office Action.

In response, Applicants respectfully request that the Office Action be withdrawn and a new Office Action be issued, since Applicants believe that the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 16, 2004 has been overlooked, and not all of the pending claims (claims 1-16) have been considered in the December 30, 2005 Office Action. A copy of the Preliminary Amendment (APPENDIX A) and a copy of the stamped postcard (APPENDIX B) indicating that such Preliminary Amendment has been filed on December 16, 2004 are attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.